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1999 World Radiocommunication Conference Preparation

IWG3-4 (Rev.1)
FCC Advisory Committee
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PRELIMINARY VIEW

ISSUE: WRC-97 decisions opened the 1525-1559/1626.5-1660.5 MHz bands to the broad (and general) Mobile-Satellite Service. In so doing, the protection afforded the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and the Aeronautical Mobile-Satellite (Route) Service (AMS(R)S) was made by footnote rather than by specific allocation. Resolution 218 (WRC-97) calls for studies on actual spectrum demand and usage information for these services in time for WRC-99 or a future competent conference.

WRC-99 AGENDA ITEM: 1.10: "to consider results of ITU-R studies carried out in accordance with Resolution 218 and take appropriate action on this subject".

OBJECTIVE: To alleviate current spectrum congestion for GSO and NGSO MSS systems while ensuring adequate spectrum is available for important safety-of-life systems. To document existing and planned spectrum resource requirements for these safety services such that the adequacy of the existing footnote protection can be assessed in time for WRC-99 or a future competent conference. To define the level of interoperability between MSS systems providing GMDSS and/or AMS(R)S if such interoperability is determined to be necessary.

PRELIMINARY VIEW: Footnotes S5.353, 362A and B may need to be revised depending on the outcome of studies to be conducted by ITU-R Working Party 8D. These studies will focus on the amount of spectrum required to provide AMS(R)S and GMDSS in the 1525-1559/1626.5-1660.5 MHz bands determine the need for interoperability between MSS systems providing these services in these bands.

APPROACH TO RESOLVE ISSUE:

Assess and document spectrum requirements for AMS(R)S and GMDSS.
Determine need for interoperability between MSS systems providing AMS(R)S and GMDSS services in the 1525-1559/1626.5-1660.5 MHz bands.

Assess necessary level of MSS interoperability depending on results of #2 above.
Determine adequacy of FNs S5.353A, S5.362A and B in protecting the operation of the AMS(R)S and GMDSS services.

TALKING POINTS:

The generic MSS allocation made at WRC-97 was an important step in our goal to increase spectrum efficiency by MSS systems
The generic MSS allocation of WRC-97 helps in alleviating spectrum congestion for existing and planned GSO and NGSO MSS systems while ensuring adequate spectrum is immediately available for safety-of-life services (AMS(R)S and GMDSS).
Studies are on-going on the amount of spectrum needed for AMS(R)S and GMDSS systems and the adequacy of the footnotes which grant these services priority and preemptive access to the spectrum in lieu of the specific allocation that existed prior to WRC-97.